

Helping Children Who are Effected by Another Person's Alcohol or Other Drug Use

COASA: CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

COASA supports children of alcoholism and substance abuse by serving as an advocate for them in community forums and by developing appropriate supportive educational groups for children of alcoholics and other substance abusers in Boston. COASA facilitates school and community-based prevention/intervention services, adapting them for the particular needs of the children we serve. The program provides the children with a framework for understanding what they are experiencing and teaches them to break the "don't talk, don't trust, don't feel" rules they live within at home. The children learn about the "seven Cs" (They didn't CAUSE it, can't CURE it, can't CONTROL it, can take CARE of themselves, can COMMUNICATE their feelings, can make healthy CHOICES and can CELEBRATE being themselves). The purpose of the program is to provide ongoing validation, support in developing positive social skills and improvement of individual self-esteem. COASA works within the Boston neighborhoods with the drug coalitions now in place and with the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR). The program offers resources to the children, whether the parents are in treatment or not.

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